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PACIFIC FRUIT EXPRESS COMPANY

October News Letter

San Francisco, October 20, 1955

ALL P.F.E. EMPLOYEES:

P. F. E. Loadings

	1955			1954		
	<u>PFE Cars</u>	<u>Foreigns</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>PFE Cars</u>	<u>Foreigns</u>	<u>Total</u>
September	34,285	3,436	37,721	30,613	2,480	33,093
Jan.-Sept.	263,980	29,320	293,300	271,896	30,419	302,315

CAR SITUATION

An adequate supply was maintained on contract lines through September. While the present supply is low in comparison with other years, a safe margin is indicated by reason of the prospective good returning tide from the heavy eastbound September loading.

To minimize use of foreign cars all who are concerned with car operations will need to intensify efforts to see that PFES developing from unloads on or off contract lines are moved promptly in direction of loading areas.

CROP CONDITIONS

SOUTHERN PACIFIC:

Western Territory: In Oregon the Rogue River pear harvest is in full swing. Storages in Medford area are filled and shipments to Klamath storages are in progress. Movement to eastern markets has tapered off. However, shipments should be steady for several months with volume depending on market conditions. Klamath potatoes are commencing to move but will not be in heavy volume until late in the month.

In Northern and Central California lettuce and vegetable movement from Salinas Valley should continue in volume through October. In the San Francisco Bay area canned goods shipments are moving in refrigerators well in advance of the heater season. Tokay grape movement from Lodi area is at peak and movement will continue through October 22 unless interrupted by rain. Emperors from San Joaquin Valley are moving to storages within the state and will start moving interstate as the Tokay deal tapers off. Stockton area tomatoes should continue in steady volume through the month if not stopped by frost.

In Southern California the citrus movement has started its seasonal decline and shipments will be light until the Navel crop commences in November. Vegetable shipments from Oxnard and Guadalupe areas will continue in light but steady volume.

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In the Rio Grande Valley of Texas heavy rains have retarded cultivation and planting, and the season will not get under way until early in December or about two weeks late.

UNION PACIFIC:

Idaho. Russett potato shipments are well under way but in light volume. The western Idaho red potato deal ended a very disappointing season early in October with hundreds of acres unharvested. Tree fruit harvest in western Idaho is nearly completed. The production of prunes, peaches, pears and plums has reached expectations. Apples are now in peak of harvest, which will last through the month.

Utah Continued warm weather ripened the peach crop faster than it could be picked, resulting in some loss.

Northwestern District. The soft fruit movement passed its peak early in October. However, there will be a good movement of peaches and pears from Yakima, Walla Walla and Hood River through October 20. Prospects are good for a heavy apple crop in Yakima Valley where movement is now under way. There also are good crops in prospect in Hood River Valley and the Milton-Freewater area.

Eastern District. The Colorado peach movement is about finished and potato shipping has dropped off with a nominal daily movement in prospect. Potatoes from Eastern Wyoming and along the Nebraska main line are now moving in light volume.

Early next year we will start conversion of 175 ice bunker superinsulated cars to mechanical refrigeration. The cars to be converted are the newest of our ice-bunker supers. These should be available for service by July and will be renumbered from 300338 to 300512, inclusive. This will give PFE a total of 512 mechanical refrigerators, all of 44-foot inside length.

Wm. K. Viall, A.A.R. Clerk-Instructor, San Francisco, retired on October 1st with service dating to May 3, 1923. Bill's first plans call for doing a little painting around the house when he isn't visiting around the country. Also, he is a stamp collector with an album that is going to require a lot of attention. His home address is 2727 79th Ave., Oakland.

John F. Shea, Senior A.A.R. Clerk in the Car Department, San Francisco, will retire November 1 after 48 years service with the Southern Pacific and Pacific Fruit Express Company, the last 27 years of which were with the P.F.E. John reports a total of 149 years railroad service among the four Shea brothers - all with the SP and PFE. He recalls that some 48 years ago the Royal Irish Constabulary in Dublin, Ireland gave him forty-eight hours to leave that country because of a "slight difference of opinion", and expresses the hope that they will have forgotten the price on his head by the time he and Mrs. Shea once more visit the Lakes of Killarney. So do we, John. His home address is 434 66th St., Oakland, Calif.

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The retirement of Bill Viall and John Shea leaves a real void in our A.A.R. bureau which processes all bills for repairs to our cars on foreign lines, and all bills for repairs to foreign cars in our shops.

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"It is not hard to learn more. What is hard is to unlearn when you discover yourself wrong."

-Dr. Martin H. Fischer

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K. V. PLUMMER

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K. V. BLUMBERG